

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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O R 261601Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA IMMEDIATE
USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6794
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
AMCONSUL DOUALA

CONFIDENTIAL ABIDJAN 0834

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BBAK, BGEN, EFIS, PLOS, PINR, IV, AO, XY
SUBJECT: VISIT OF WILLIAM W. DURNEY

REFERENCE (A) ACCRA 040(NOTAL), (B) ACCRA 0491(NOTAL), (C)
ABIDJAN 0662(NOTAL)

1. EMBOFFS DONAHUE AND GROSSMAN MET WITH DURNEY
JANUARY 20 TO DISCUSS PROSPECTS FOR BASING HIS TUNA FISHING
BOATS IN ABIDJAN AND FISHING OFF THIS COAST. EMBOFFS
REFERRED DURNEY TO LOCALLY BASED FISHING FIRMS FOR FUTHER
INFORMATION.

2. EMBASSY ABIDJAN HAD NO PREVIOUS CONTACT WITH DURNEY
OR HIS COMPANY AND ONLY BACKGROUND WE HAVE IS WHAT DURNEY
HIMSELF SUPPLIED.

3. DURNEY INFORMED EMBOFFS HE OWNS LARGEST TUNA-PROCESSING
PLANT IN ANGOLA, BUT IT IS NO LONGER FUNCTIONING DUE TO WAR.
DURNEY SAID HE ALSO OWNS TUNA BOAT WHICH CANNOT LEAVE
LUANDA HARBOR DUE TO CUBAN AND RUSSIAN GUN EMPLACEMENTS

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AT HARBOR ENTRANCE. DURNEY SAID HE KNOWS ABOUT GUNS BECAUSE

HE RECENTLY TALKED WITH SOMEONE IN LUANDA. HE DID NOT NAME SOURCE OR EXPLAIN HOW COMMUNICATION WITH ANGOLA POSSIBLE.

4. EMBOFFS UNDERSTOOD THAT DURNEY HAD ANOTHER TUNA BOAT SPECIALLY BUILT IN US FOR BAIT FISHING OFF ANGOLA COAST. ANGOLA WAR HAD ALREADY BEGIN BY TIME SHIP EN ROUTE AND DURNEY HAD SHIP DIVERTED TO WALVIS BAY, SOUTH AFRICA(NAMIBIA) WHERE IT PRESENTLY AWAITING FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. ADDITIONAL SHIPS OWNED BY DURNEY SAID TO BE WAITING IN CAPETOWN.

5. DURNEY EXPLAINED THAT DUE TO EXPENSE OF KEEPING BOATS IN PORT, HE IS TRAVELING FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY IN WEST AFRICA TO FIND POSSIBILITIES FOR BOATS TO OPERATE IN THOSE COUNTRIES' WATERS. SINCE MOST FISHINGBOATS OFF IVORY COAST ARE PURSE SEINERS, DURNEY CONCERNED ABOUT SUPPLY OF BAIT FOR HIS BOATS. BECAUSE IVORY COASTS IMPORTS FISH FROM FOREIGN SHIPS FISHING THESE WATERS EMBOFFS SUGGESTED DURNEY MIGHT TRY JOINT VENTURE WITH IVOIRIAN INTERESTS. THROUGH SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT, EMBOFFS FEEL, DURNEY MIGHT OBTAIN PREFERENTIAL STATUS FROM IVOIRIAN GOVERNMENT.

6. DURNEY INDICATED ONLY PARTIAL INTEREST IN EMBOFFS' SUGGESTION, HOWEVER, AND INDICATED PLANS TO TRAVEL TO GHANA, CAMEROON, LIBERIA, GAMBIA, SNEGAL, AND POSSIBLY MOROCCO.

7. REQUEST COMMERCE SUPPLY INFO ON DURNEY AND HIS COMPANY. DURNEY CLAIMS HE IS PRESIDENT, OCEANS OF THE WORLD, GRIFFITH-DURNEY COMPANY, 10889 WILHIRE BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CALIF. DURNEY ALSO CLAIMED HE WAS LICENSEE OF CARNATION SEAFOODS. COOKE

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